Open Jails in States

3485. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain States have not found practicable to construct open jails in their respective States;

(b) if so, reasons therefor alongwith names of the States where one or more open jail exists; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to establish more open jails and also to impress upon the States to do the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) "Prisons" being a State subject as per List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, it is for the State Governments to consider taking into account the requirement and local conditions, the viability of constructing open jails.

At the end of year 2001, there were 23 open jails in the different States, namely, Andhra Pradesh-2, Assam-1, Gujarat-2, Himachal Pradesh-1, Karnataka-1, Kerala-2, Maharashtra-2, Punjab-2, Rajasthan-7, Tamil Nadu-1, Uttaranchal-1 and West Bengal-1.

(c) The Government have introduced a new non-plan scheme with an outlay of 1800 crores for Modernisation of Prison infrastructure with effect from the year 2002-03 which, *inter-alia*, provides for construction of new prisons, repair and renovation of old prisons. Open jails may also be constructed under the Scheme by the State Governments if they require them.

Migration of Kashmiri Pandits from valley

3486. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Kashmiri Pandit families, indicating the total number of persons, who migrated out of Kashmir Valley after the Nandimarg massacre on the night of 23rd March, 2003;

(b) the places where they have been given residential accommodation and what monetary and other material assistance has been provided to them by the Central and the State Governments sseparately; and